

FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: March 13, 2014

Agenda Item: Glendive Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture Paddlefish Grant Committee

Division: Fisheries

Action Needed: Approve Paddlefish Grant Committee

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 5 minutes

Background

Montana statute (87-4-601, MCA) allows someone who legally takes a paddlefish from the Yellowstone River (Glendive to North Dakota state line) to donate the paddlefish roe (eggs) to one Montana nonprofit corporation for processing and marketing as caviar. The F&W Commission selects the nonprofit organization. FWP may extend the permit if the Commission is satisfied with the organization's administration of the program. In 1990, the Commission selected the Glendive Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture and FWP has renewed the Chamber's permit each year since. The caviar donation process begins when a paddlefish is brought to the Intake Fishing Access Site by an angler or an authorized Chamber representative and is then processed. The paddlefish roe is donated to the Paddlefish Roe Donation Program and the fish fillets are returned to the angler. The roe is prepared and sold in the global market, where the proceeds are divided between the Chamber and FWP after processing expenses. Thirty percent of the proceeds in excess of costs go to FWP to help manage the paddlefish fishery; and 70 percent go to the nonprofit organization to fund historical, cultural, recreational, and fish and wildlife projects. The law requires the Commission to appoint an advisory committee to solicit and review proposals and fund projects with the proceeds. The advisory committee must consist of one member of the nonprofit organization, two local government representatives, and two representatives of area anglers. The committee is required to notify the Commission of its actions. A list of 2013 funded projects will be provided to the Commission. The Chamber is recommending that the Commission appoint the following individuals to the 2014 Paddlefish Roe Advisory Committee:

Mike Roe—Glendive Area Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture (nonprofit)

Kevin Dorwart—City of Glendive director of operations (local government)

Tim Mort—West Glendive Fire Department chief and Dawson County fire warden (local government)

Kevin McGovern—Reynolds Warehouse Grocery meat cutter in Glendive (area angler)

James Thielman—Thielman Oil Productions Services, Inc. in Glendive (area angler)

Public Involvement Process & Results

Public involvement consists of presenting this recommendation to the Commission in a public forum.

Alternatives and Analysis

The Commission could revoke the Chamber's permit or ask for a new list of potential committee members. Either of these choices would delay implementation of the program in 2014.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale

FWP is prepared to extend the Chamber's permit for 2014. FWP recommends that the Commission approve the new advisory committee recommended by the Chamber.

Proposed Motion

I move the Commission is satisfied with the Chamber's administration of the Paddlefish Roe Program, and that the Commission approve the advisory committee members recommended by the Chamber.